

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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SUBJECT: MORE ON THE NEW COMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS

VIENNA FOR EWTC

REF: SOFIA 1351

1. DURING CALL AUG 9 ON THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS NIKOLA KALCHEV (IN HIS CAPACITY AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF TECHNOKOMPLEKT), AMBASSADOR LEARNED MORE FROM HIM ABOUT THE AREA OF COMPETENCE OF THE NEW COMMITTEE.

2. KALCHEV SAID THE NEW COMMITTEE WOULD HAVE OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CARRYING OUT PROJECTS REQUIRING THE EXPORT AND IMPORT OF COMPLETE PLANTS AND ALSO, IN EFFECT, RESPONSIBILITY FOR CARRYING OUT THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM OF "INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION" WITH FOREIGN FIRMS. THE COMMITTEE WILL COORDINATE ITS EFFORTS WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE WHICH RETAINS POLICY-MAKING FUNCTION. CREATION OF THE NEW COMMITTEE IS DESIGNED TO ELIMINATE CO-

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ORDINATION EFFORTS REQUIRED PREVIOUSLY BETWEEN SEVERAL

INTERESTED MINISTRIES, STATE ENTERPRISES, AND TECHNO-KOMPLEKT ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS.

3. COMMITTEE WILL BE COMPOSED OF FIVE COMPONENTS:

A. TECHNOIMPORT. THIS IS ONE PART OF THE PRESENT TECHNOKOMPLEKT. IT WILL DEAL WITH IMPORTATION OF PLANTS AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE CHEMICAL, PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, CELLULOSE, PAPER, BUILDING MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION SECTORS.

B. MACHINOIMPORT. PRESENTLY THE OTHER PART OF TECHNOKOMPLEKT (WHICH WILL GO OUT OF EXISTENCE), THIS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPORTING PLANTS FOR ENERGY, METALLURGY, LIGHT INDUSTRIES (INCLUDING TEXTILES, SHOES, FURNITURE ETC), FERROUS AND NON-FERROUS METALS, MACHINE BUILDING, ELECTRONICS, AND FOOD AND SPICE INDUSTRY AND SOME PROJECTS INVOLVING AGRICULTURE.

C. TECHNOEXPORT, WHICH WAS FORMERLY ATTACHED TO THE MINISTRY OF MACHINE BUILDING. DEALS WITH EXPORTATION OF COMPLETE PLANTS.

D. TECHNOIMPEX, PRESENTLY UNDER THE MINISTRY OF TRADE, DEALS WITH FOREIGN SPECIALISTS BROUGHT TO BULGARIA AND BULGARIAN SPECIALISTS SENT ABROAD.

E. ANOTHER COMPONENT, WHICH WILL BE NEWLY CREATED AND APPARENTLY HAS NO NAME YET, WILL BE AN ENGINEERING ORGANIZATION FOR PURPOSE OF "INVESTIGATING NEW PROJECTS AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PLANTS".

4. NOTEWORTHY THAT COMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS WILL NOT INCLUDE TECHNIKA, THE FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATION THAT DEALS WITH BUYING AND SELLING LICENSES. TECHNIKA REMAINS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE, TECHNICAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION HEADED BY NACHA PAPAZOV.

5. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH DCM, VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE ANDREY LUKANOV GAVE SIMILAR EXPLANATION REGARDING RESPONSIBILITIES OF NEW COMMITTEE AND STRESSED THAT HIS MINISTRY REMAINS THE POLICY-MAKING BODY FOR FOREIGN TRADE. WHILE SLIGHTLY DEFENSIVE, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE CONCEPT OF ONE BODY TO COORDINATE RELATED ACTIVITIES HAS MERIT "BUT THE TEST WILL BE IN THE OPERATION".

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VITIES HAS MERIT "BUT THE TEST WILL BE IN THE OPERATION".

6. COMMENT: WE HAD BEEN INCLINED AT FIRST TO REGARD CREATION OF THE NEW COMMITTEE AS A CASE OF "LAYERING" BUT SINCE IT INCORPORATES TECHNOKOMPLEKT AND ADDS RELATED ELEMENTS FROM OTHER MINISTRIES IT MAKES A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF GOOD ORGANIZATIONAL SENSE. KALCHEV, WHO NOW HAS THE RANK OF MINISTER, IS AN ABLE TECHNICIAN AND IS IN CHARGE

OF ESSENTIALLY OPERATIONAL ASPECTS. HE EXPECTS TO HAVE THE NEW ORGANIZATION FULLY IN PLACE BY THE END OF OCTOBER. IN OUR JUDGMENT, KALCHEV DOES NOT HAVE THE POLITICAL CLOUT OF MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE NEDEV WHO RETAINS POLICY FUNCTION ALTHOUGH HE HAS LOST ONE OPERATIONAL COMPONENT OF HIS MINISTRY. IT WILL PROBABLY TAKE SEVERAL MONTHS TO SEE HOW THE NEW COMMITTEE OPERATES AND WHETHER INCREASED OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY HAS BEEN BOUGHT AT THE PRICE OF RIVALRY BETWEEN KALCHEV, A CANDIDATE MEMBER SINCE 1962 OF THE CC, AND TWO MINISTERS (NEDEV AND CHAKUROV) WHO ARE BOTH FULL MEMBERS OF THE CC.
HERZ

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